



U.S. Department of Justice
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NEWS RELEASE

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MAN CHARGED WITH BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM AFTER SHOOTING A DOG

KANSAS CITY, Kan. – United States Attorney Eric Melgren announced that **Gregory T. Sims**, 45, Kansas City, Kansas, was charged on April 7, 2004, with one count of being a felon in possession of a firearm.

Melgren said that Sims made his initial appearance in U.S. District Court in Kansas City, Kansas, today. Sims was temporarily detained and his detention hearing is set for April 13, 2004.

The complaint alleges that on April 5, 2004, Sims, after previously being convicted in 1998 of a felony in Oklahoma, possessed a rifle. The complaint further alleges that Sims used the rifle to shoot a dog, a Rottweiler, that belonged to another, on Waverly Street, Kansas City, Kansas. According to the complaint, the Rottweiler had to be put to sleep because of its injuries. The complaint further alleges that when Kansas City, Kansas police officers arrived on Waverly Street, in response to the shooting, they knocked on the front door of a residence and, when Sims answered the door, saw a gun shell casing laying on the couch in the front room. The complaint alleges that a rifle was recovered from a bedroom closet.

If convicted, Sims face a maximum of ten years in federal prison without parole. This case was investigated by the Kansas City, Kansas Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Terra Morehead.

The fact that Sims shot a dog is not legally relevant to his charge or prospective sentence. Sims is charged with being a felon in possession of a firearm, a federal law that prohibits those who have previously been convicted of a felony from possessing a firearm, whether or not the firearm is discharged.

As in any criminal case, a person is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty. The Indictment filed merely contain allegations of criminal conduct.